The Gilmer News & Gossip

Five Cents

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Tracker Stopped In Tracks

Tracker Bloomer, a blue-blooded, black and tan coon hound, formerly of Hargrave Boulevard, met his match in county court last week when his "owner" was fined $25 for harboring a dog that bites people. Tracker's owner, Joseph Bloomer, pleaded that Tracker had been given to someone who lives outside of town.

Observers were amazed that Joe Bloomer of South Main Street denied ownership of Tracker, accusing his son of being the owner. Mr. Bloomer also stated that he had done everything possible to keep Tracker chained.

Ruel L. Cummins, Jr., also known as Bud, testified that he had been bitten by Tracker on March 4th as he walked along the public sidewalk in front of the Bloomer home. In a later interview with the News & Gossip, Mr. Cummins stated that it was the first time he had ever been bitten by a dog. There had been suggestions that Mr. Cummins had acted in a manner that might encourage dogs to bite him.

Mr. Cummins expressed sorrow that Tracker had had to leave town, stating that it was too bad for the children. He said that he felt no malice for Mr. Joe Bloomer, other than sorrow that Tracker was not properly trained. Mr. Cummins said that he was glad that he was bitten instead of some young child.

Tracker's lawyer, Rudolph A. Shupik, Jr., argued that it was wrong to charge Tracker as a vicious animal when there was no evidence that he had ever before bitten anyone. Dog Catcher Waller, who had brought the charges, testified that he had called the Bloomers three times concerning complaints about Tracker and that nothing had been done. Judge J. W. Clements allowed that Waller's charge was "poorly drawn", but this did not deter the judge.

Judge Clements kept going to the question of whether the dog had bitten the man, brushing aside the technical legal arguments offered by the defense. Judge Clements was singularly unimpressed by Mr. Bloomer's contention that Tracker was actually owned by his son. Commonwealth Attorney Berger sent word he would not be present to argue the state's position in the matter.

Mr. Bloomer reports that he will appeal the case.

—CH

The Gilmer News & Gossip

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Editorial

Tracker Bloomer has been banished from Chatham and his owner fined $25 because Tracker bit a man who was walking along the sidewalk. As much as we like Tracker (and he was a good friend of ours), he can not live in town and think he can bite people when he wants to. What happened to Tracker should be a lesson to every dog who considers biting a person. We hope that all dogs will be warned to keep their teeth to themselves. --RH

The Nose

A new and unusual addiction is noted in North Chatham. Someone stops regularly on Gilmer Drive at night and quaffs a few bottles of Robitussin cough syrup. One morning Jessie Thompson found nine empty bottles! Despite the mystery, The Nose welcomes an innovative new habit to town.

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While on the subject, The Nose invites its readers to guess the identity of the Chatham lady who shops at Kroger's in Danville and regularly buys a whole case of vanilla extract.

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A South Chatham lad recently expressed impudence toward his mother by saying: "What're puttin' in my lunch today, the same old dog food?" At school the boy opened his lunch and found a large portion of dog food.

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Rumors swept through town one recent morning when a prominent Roanoke newspaperman, stylishly attired in a bush jacket, was seen hustling down the sidewalk at a good clip. Stunned observers noted that he was pushing a shopping cart, clearly removed from Eddie's Supermarket. The Nose is relieved to report, however, that the cart would not fit into his small car.

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There is a certain car that has resided in East Chatham for nine months that still has Connecticut plates. The Nose twitches.

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When The Nose is away and the children play, there is a prominent tendency to misspell. The Nose is red.